

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: October 10, 2007

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Diane Harris, Bob Koohy, Cecil Leonard, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Deb Pallasch

Members absent: Stanley Zeramby, Richard Joslin

2: Approval of minutes

Motion made by L. Epke to approve minutes for Sept. 26, 2007. Motion seconded by B. Koohy. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Receive comments from invited groups/individuals

The Town Clerk, Nancy Mello, and Conservation Commission representative, Tom Ramotowski, indicated that they would appear before the commission at a later date.

Open Space Commission – No one present.

Town Administrator Glenn Steckman provided a handout to the commission indicating the percentage of the budget that is fixed versus variable. The amount of the municipal budget not fixed is between 7% and 16%, depending on interpretation of various items.

4. Public Input

Charles Moran:

- Mr. Moran would like to see the mandate for nonpartisanship removed from the Charter where allowable per the Constitution (i.e., Charter Commission must be nonpartisan.)

5. Public Forum publicity

Revised calendar was distributed to all members (revisions approved on 09/26/07)

D. Pallasch and C. Leonard will draft a letter and send to “other town leaders” as indicated in list provided by L. Epke notifying them of public forum dates.

Other publicity items will be tabled to next meeting in absence of Commission’s head of publicity

6. Presentation Question to Town Solicitor

Email from Town Solicitor distributed and discussed. Commission has two levels of purview:

- What by right we can propose
- What electors want

Commission will invite the Town Solicitor to attend at a latter date to address any questions from the Commission, as well as give input re: any proposed Charter changes.

7. Preliminary Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

A list was distributed to all members of the 16 proposed changes to date.

Based on discussion, D. Pallasch made a motion with B. Koohy seconding to remove item #11, requiring public hearing for Municipal and School contracts, from consideration at this time.

Diane Harris, Bob Koohy, Cecil Leonard, Frank Marshall, and Deb Pallasch voted in favor of the motion, with Laura Epke and Ray Medeiros opposed.

After discussion of RIGL 45-4-9, which requires the Town Treasurer to be elected, L. Epke made a motion with D. Pallasch seconding to remove item #15, Town Treasurer should be appointed not elected, from consideration at this time.

Diane Harris, Cecil Leonard, Frank Marshall, Deb Pallasch, Laura Epke and Ray Medeiros voted in favor of the motion, with Bob Koohy opposed.

8. Addt’l Information on Other Town Methods for Budget Submission

Commission further discussed Burrillville’s all day referendum policy, as well as Hopkinton. D. Pallasch will bring Portsmouth’s proposed changes to the next meetings.

9. Other Business

None

10. Adjournment

The Commission's October 10, 2007 regular meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.